



CHADWYCK-HEALEY

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**1994/12/16**

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	EB-01	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	PA-01	PRS-01	P-01
	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	PRME-01	DRL-09	G-00	/055W			

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL SHANGHAI

AMCONSUL SHENYANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU

AMCONSUL CHENGDU

7946  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE IM/IPS/CR/TR Date: 2/4/98  
☐ RELEASE ☒ DECLASSIFY  
☐ EXCISE ☐ DECLASSIFY EO Citations  
☐ DENY IN PART

FOIA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_ TS authority to  
PA Exemptions \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ CLASSIFY as ☐ S or ☐ C Sec.  
☐ DOWNGRADE TS to ☐ S or ☐ C

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 056982

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, CH

SUBJECT: "BEIJING 15" SENTENCES REPORTEDLY HANDED DOWN

REF: (A) 93 BEIJING 40186, (B) BEIJING 39968

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. (LOU) SUMMARY. SENTENCES IN THE CASE OF THE "BEIJING 15," TRIED IN JULY FOR FORMING A "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY GROUP," WERE REPORTEDLY HANDED DOWN BY A BEIJING COURT ON

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DECEMBER 16. SENTENCES RANGED FROM 20 TO FIVE YEARS  
IMPRISONMENT, WHILE CHARGES WERE DROPPED AGAINST FIVE  
DEFENDANTS AND ONE WAS SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS PROBATION.  
MFA HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION OFFICIALS PROMISED TO LOOK INTO  
THE REPORT AND AGREED IF THEY RECEIVED ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION TO PROVIDE IT TO THE EMBASSY. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) THE BEIJING INTERMEDIATE COURT REPORTEDLY RULED  
ON THE CASES OF 15 DISSIDENTS, KNOWN AS THE "BEIJING 15"  
(A SIXTEENTH DEFENDANT WAS DROPPED FROM THE CASE FOR  
MEDICAL REASONS, REF A) ON DECEMBER 16. THE DEFENDANTS  
WERE TRIED IN JULY. EARLIER PRESS REPORTS INDICATING  
SENTENCES  
HAD BEEN HANDED DOWN IN AUGUST WERE DENIED BY THE LOCAL  
COURT (REF B). ACCORDING TO REUTERS, HU SHIGEN WAS  
SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS FOR "HEADING A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY  
GROUP" AND "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA AND  
INCITEMENT;" KANG YUCHUN 17 YEARS, LIU JINGSHENG 15, AND  
WANG GUOQI 11 ON SIMILAR CHARGES. FOUR DEFENDANTS  
CHARGED WITH PARTICIPATING IN A COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY  
GROUP AND COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA AND INCITEMENT  
WERE SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS, ANOTHER HAS SENTENCED TO  
THREE YEARS AND ONE HAS PLACED "UNDER SUPERVISION" FOR  
TWO YEARS. CHARGES WERE REPORTEDLY DROPPED AGAINST THE  
OTHER FIVE DEFENDANTS. THE DEFENDANTS WERE ARRESTED FOR  
ALLEGEDLY FORMING THREE DISSIDENT GROUPS THAT PLANNED TO  
COMMEMORATE THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1989 TIANANMEN  
INCIDENT.

4. (LOU) WHEN ASKED TO CONFIRM THE PRESS REPORT, MFA  
HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION CHIEF LI BAODONG AGREED TO LOOK  
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INTO THE MATTER AND PROMISED TO INFORM THE EMBASSY IF HE  
ACQUIRED ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. EMBASSY IS ALSO  
ATTEMPTING TO RECEIVE CONFIRMATION FROM THE BEIJING  
INTERMEDIATE COURT.

5. (C) COMMENT: INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE "BEIJING  
15" CERTAINLY PLAYED A ROLE IN THE HANDLING OF THESE

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CASES. THE COURT TOOK AN UNUSUALLY LONG TIME TO DELIVER ITS VERDICT AFTER THE TRIAL ENDED IN JULY. CHINESE LEADERS' PRE-OCCUPATION WITH MAINTAINING STABILITY MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE SEVERITY OF SEVERAL OF THE SENTENCES. DESPITE THIS, CHARGES WERE DROPPED AGAINST FIVE DEFENDANTS, AN OUTCOME RARE IN CASES INVOLVING COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CHARGES.

6. (U) SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOLLOWS:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT 9 DISSIDENT HAVE BEEN GIVEN LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY CRIMES IN BEIJING?

A. WE ARE AWARE OF THIS REPORT. THE UNITED STATES HAS REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ITS POSITION THAT FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSOCIATION ARE AMONG THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS WHICH ALL NATIONS SHOULD OBSERVE. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT FAIR AND OPEN TRIALS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SAFEGUARDING THESE AND OTHER RIGHTS. ROY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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